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Social development: follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

South Africa:* draft resolution

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration[1] and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[2] its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 60/135 of 16 December 2005, 61/142 of 19 December 2006, 62/130 of 18 December 2007, 63/151 of 18 December 2008, 64/132 of 18 December 2009, 65/182 of 21 December 2010, 66/127 of 19 December 2011, 67/139 and 67/143 of 20 December 2012, 68/134 of 18 December 2013 and 69/146 of 18 December 2014,

Recognizing that, in many parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[3]

Welcoming the important opportunity to further mainstream ageing issues provided by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the pledge that no one shall be left behind,[4]

Recognizing that, between 2015 and 2030, the number of persons aged 60 years or over in the world is projected to grow by 56 per cent, from 901 million

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] A/70/185.

[4] Resolution 70/1.

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to 1.4 billion,[5] and recognizing also that the increase in the number of older people will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution 58.16 of 25 May 2005 on strengthening active and healthy ageing, which stressed the important role of public health policies and programmes in enabling the rapidly growing number of older persons in both developed and developing countries to remain in good health and maintain their many vital contributions to the well-being of their families, communities and societies,

Recalling also World Health Assembly resolution 65.3 of 25 May 2012 on strengthening non-communicable diseases policies to promote active ageing, which recognized that population ageing is among the major factors contributing to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases,

Concerned that many health systems are not sufficiently prepared to respond to the needs of the rapidly ageing population, including the need for preventative, curative, palliative and specialized care,

Deeply concerned that the situation of older persons in many parts of the world has been negatively affected by different crises, including financial and economic crises, and noting with concern the high incidence of poverty among this particularly vulnerable group,

Recognizing the essential contribution that older men and women can make to the functioning of societies and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development if adequate guarantees are in place,

Concerned about the multiple forms of discrimination that may affect older persons and the enjoyment of their human rights, particularly those in vulnerable situations, and noting that older women often face multiple forms of discrimination resulting from their gender-based roles in society, compounded by their age or disability or on other grounds,

1. *Reaffirms* the Political Declaration[1] and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;[2]

2. *Calls upon* all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts towards the full implementation of the outcome document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach to improving the well-being of older persons;

3. *Recognizes* that the major challenges faced by older persons undermine their social, economic and cultural participation;

4. *Also recognizes* the challenges related to the enjoyment of all human rights that older persons face in different areas, and that those challenges require measures to address protection gaps, and calls upon all States to promote and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older persons, including by taking measures to provide social protection, food and housing, employment and access to justice, to combat age discrimination and to address

[5] See *World Population Ageing 2015*.

issues related to social integration, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development;

5. *Takes note* of the appointment by the Human Rights Council of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, and invites Member States to cooperate with the Independent Expert in carrying out her mandate, and notes her report to the Human Rights Council at its thirtieth session;[6]

6. *Invites* Member States to continue to share their national experiences in developing and implementing policies and programmes aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons, including within the framework of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/182;

7. *Stresses* the importance of the Independent Expert and the Open-ended Working Group working in close coordination, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of each other's mandates and those of other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Human Rights Council, relevant United Nations bodies and treaties;

8. *Encourages* all Member States to be mindful of the reports of the Independent Expert, including the comprehensive report to be brought to the attention of the Open-ended Working Group in September 2016;

9. *Encourages* Governments to actively address, through national, regional and international efforts, issues that affect older persons and to ensure that the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights form an integral part of development policies at all levels;

10. *Invites* Member States to adopt and implement non-discriminatory policies and to systematically review and amend, where appropriate, existing practices and regulations that discriminate against older persons, in order to promote an enabling environment for older persons;

11. *Encourages* Member States to address the issue of discrimination on the basis of age in relevant national legislation and to take appropriate measures to prevent discrimination against older persons;

12. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication, women's empowerment strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies;

13. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacities to address their national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, by devising strategies that take into account the entirety of the human life course and foster intergenerational solidarity, and through the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

[6] A/HRC/30/43.

14. *Invites* Member States to identify key priority areas for implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including empowering older persons and promoting their rights, raising awareness of ageing issues and building national capacity to address ageing;

15. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of developing effective policies that create national policy ownership and consensus-building;

16. *Recommends* that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated when necessary by relevant factors, including sex, age and disability, in order to better assess the situation of older persons, and recognizes that the data revolution presents new opportunities for the use of new data to help with the measurement of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to ensure that no one is left behind;[7]

17. *Recommends* that States parties to existing international human rights instruments, where appropriate, address the situation of older persons more explicitly in their reports, and encourages treaty body monitoring mechanisms and special procedures mandate holders, in accordance with their mandates, to pay more attention to the situation of older persons in their dialogue with Member States, in their consideration of reports or in their country missions;

18. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the Madrid Plan of Action and to mainstream the concerns of older persons into their policy agendas, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational family interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development and the realization of all human rights for older persons, and to prevent age discrimination and provide social integration;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity, and in this regard calls upon Member States to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

20. *Encourages* Member States to adopt social policies that promote the development of community services for older persons, taking into account the psychological and physical aspects of ageing and the special needs of older women;

21. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that older persons have access to information about their rights so as to enable them to participate fully and justly in their societies and to claim full enjoyment of all human rights;

22. *Calls upon* Member States to develop their national capacity for monitoring and enforcing the rights of older persons, in consultation with all sectors of society, including organizations of older persons, through, inter alia, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, where applicable;

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[7] See Statistical Commission, decision 46/101 (*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 4* (E/2015/24), chap. I, sect. C) and General Assembly resolution 70/1, para. 48.

23. *Also calls upon* Member States to strengthen and incorporate a gender and disability perspective into all policy actions on ageing, as well as to address and eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, sex or disability, and recommends that Member States engage with all sectors of society, in particular with relevant organizations with an interest in the matter, including organizations of older persons, women and persons with disabilities, in changing negative stereotypes about older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, and promote positive images of older persons;

24. *Acknowledges* that universal health coverage implies that all people, including older persons, have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative basic health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of such services does not expose older persons to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized;

25. *Urges* Member States to develop, implement and evaluate policies and programmes that promote healthy and active ageing and the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons and to develop health care for older persons as part of primary care in the existing national health systems;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of training, education and capacity-building of the health workforce, including for home-based care;

27. *Urges* Member States to strengthen intersectoral policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms, as appropriate, for the integrated management of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including health promotion, health care and social welfare services, in order to address the needs of older persons;

28. *Calls upon* Member States to address the issue of the well-being and adequate health care of older persons, as well as any cases of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, by designing and implementing more effective prevention strategies and stronger laws and by developing coherent and comprehensive policy frameworks to address these problems and their underlying factors;

29. *Also calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, in accordance with the Madrid Plan of Action and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;

30. *Stresses* that, in complementing national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation, including North-South, which is complemented by South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation, is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of such assistance as well as the provision of financial assistance;

31. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of age is incorporated and upheld in health policies and programmes and that the implementation of such policies and programmes is regularly monitored;

32. *Recommends* that Governments involve older persons and their organizations in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes that affect them;

33. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information with regard to a gender perspective on ageing;

34. *Requests* the United Nations focal points on ageing to enhance their collaboration, and recommends that Member States reaffirm the role of the United Nations on ageing and increase technical cooperation efforts, expand the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on ageing and enhance cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to promote ageing issues and develop partnerships in this regard;

35. *Reiterates* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in this regard encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing so as to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

36. *Requests* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to ensure that the situation of older women is mainstreamed and incorporated across their work, and to support, in accordance with their respective mandates, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

37. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, and recognizes the positive contributions of Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and invited panellists, during the first six working sessions of the Working Group;

38. *Requests* the Working Group to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a compilation of the above-mentioned proposals and measures;

39. *Invites* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations with an interest in the matter, to continue to make contributions to the work entrusted to the Open-ended Working Group, as appropriate;

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary support to the Working Group, within existing resources, for the organization of a seventh working session, in 2016;

41. *Invites* the Independent Expert to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-first session under the item entitled "Social development";

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.